

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

A clean copy of the drawing is attached with this paper.

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

1. The priority claim acknowledgment in paragraph 12 of PTOL-326 is appreciated.

2. A specification amendment has been provided to add a cross reference to the base applications and to make certain changes in the text.

Applicants copy of the application does not contain anything which appears to be misprints. A copy of the specification can be provided. However, it is noted that:

page 6, line 24 should read as follows: -- material into the melt is ensured. The particle sizes of the -.

Page 7, line 24 should read as follows: -- increased and the decarbonization duration is reduced. --

Page 11, line 21 should read as follows: -- increase in the specific life of the refractory lining of the -- .

Page 13, line 23 should read as follows: -- the iron ore were between 3 and 10 mm. The melt was sampled -- and,

Page 18, the abstract is correct and it is not clear where a misprint can be present.

3. The object to the Information Disclosure Statement is noted. For the record, the foreign patent document 561 3 4 820 is the Patent Abstract of Japan which has also been identified by the number 58037112 and has a publication date 04-03-83. While a copy of that is probably of record, another copy has been attached hereto.

The publications AS, AT, AU, AW and AX are identified more completely on PTO-1449 forms which are attached hereto

4. The objection to the drawing is noted and there is enclosed a FIG. 4 showing the subject matter of claims 9, 10 and 11, namely, the cell gate 19b or 19b', the lance 20' and the device 20" for blowing the pieces into the melt. An appropriate insert has been included into the specification. The changes do not involve any new matter since claims 9 to 11 are original claims.

Support for a size range of 5 to 50mm is found in the specification at page 13, line 7.

5. The claims have been amended to emphasize that the pieces as introduced into the melt are porous (the subject matter

of claim 4) has been incorporated into claim 1).

The original claims have been rejected as being obvious from Nishiwa Patent 4,043,798, from Hunter et al patent 5,110,351 and from Sherwood Patent 4,541,865. The Examiner has applied a number of other references only against claim 1. A careful review of the three named references and the others cited by the Examiner will clearly show that not a single one of them even remotely suggests the introduction of a porous solid in the form of pieces as claimed and thus there is no basis for holding the invention to be obvious from anything in the art upon which the Examiner now relied.

Claims 1 to 3 and 5 to 7 which remain in the case are thus deemed to be allowable and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
The Firm of Karl F. Ross P.C.



By: Herbert Dubno, Reg. No. 19,752
Attorney for Applicant

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DATED: January 4, 2005
5676 Riverdale Avenue Box 900
Bronx, NY 10471-0900
Cust. No.: 535
Tel: (718) 884-6600
Fax: (718) 601-1099
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